

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PDEV, UK, RH
SUBJECT: RHODESIA: REPORT OF THE CATHOLIC JUSTICE AND
PEACE COMMISSION

1. THE CATHOLIC INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
IN LONDON HAS PASSED TO US A COPY OF A REPORT SCHEDULED
TO BE PUBLISHED IN SALISBURY ON AUGUST 8 BY THE RHODESIA
CATHOLIC JUSTICE AND PEACE COMMISSION. THE REPORT WAS
APPROVED BY THE RHODESIA CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE IN
APRIL. AN ADDENDUM CARRIES THE ANALYSIS THROUGH JULY 4.
THE REPORT CATEGORIZES THE FAILURES OF THE SALISBURY
AGREEMENT AND CONCLUDES THAT THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
REPRESENTS ONLY ONE PARTY TO THE CONFLICT.

2. IN A BRIEF FOREWORD, THE COMMISSION WRITES: QUOTE
IN PART ONE THE COMMISSION HAS ATTEMPTED TO POINT OUT,
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AS OBJECTIVELY AS POSSIBLE, THAT CERTAIN CENTRAL
FEATURES OF THE AGREEMENT MAKE PEACE VERY DIFFICULT IF
NOT IMPOSSIBLE TO ACHIEVE. IN THE ADDENDUM WE SHOW THA
OUR FEARS HAVE BEEN JUSTIFIED BY THE LACK OF PROGRESS
TOWARDS PEACE DURING THE MONTHS SINCE THE AGREEMENT WAS
SIGNED. BECAUSE NO PROGRESS SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN MADE,
WE STRESS THE REAL AND URGENT NEED FOR AN ALL PARTY

CONFERENCE AS WE SEE THIS AS THE ONLY MEANS OF BRINGING ABOUT AN END TO BLOODSHED AND ACHIEVING LASTING PEACE AND JUSTICE IN OUR LAND. END QUOTE. THIS SECTION CONCLUDES THAT THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSALS REMAIN THE BEST CHANCE FOR A SETTLEMENT.

3. IN APPRAISING THE PROGRESS OF THE TRANSITION GOVERNMENT, THE REPORT POINTS TO THE INABILITY OF THE INTERNAL NATIONALISTS TO PERSUADE THE GUERRILLAS TO LAY DOWN THEIR ARMS AND STRESSES THAT VIOLENCE IS INCREASING. I ACCUSES THE RHODESIA FRONT OF USING THE INTERNAL AGREEMENT NOT FOR DEMOCRATIC CHANGE BUT FOR RECRUITING BLACK TO DEFEND THE PRIVILEGES OF WHITES, STATING THAT THIS CAN ONLY LEAD TO A GENERALIZED CIVIL WAR. THE COMMISSION ALSO STATES THAT (A) THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT IS BUILDING PROTECTED VILLAGES RATHER THAN DISMANTLING THEM, (B) MORE THAN A HUNDRED DETAINEES REMAIN CONFINED, (C) POLITICAL ARRESTS AND EXECUTIONS CONTINUE (D) THE RBC CONTINUES TO BE AN INSTRUMENT OF PROPAGANDA AND (E) TWO POPULAR AFRICAN NEWSPAPERS (UMBOWO AND MOTO) ARE STILL BANNED.

4. THE REPORT CONCLUDES THAT QUOTE IN ADDITION TO THE SERIOUS SHORTCOMINGS AND WEAKNESSES OF THE SALISBURY AGREEMENT ITSELF, THE TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT HAS SO FAR FAILED, WITH A FEW EXCEPTIONS, TO ACHIEVE EVEN THE MOST UNCLASSIFIED

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LIMITED AND SELF SET OBJECTIVES OF THAT AGREEMENT. MOS ESSENTIALLY, INSTEAD OF LEADING TO A CEASEFIRE, THE SIGNING OF THE SALISBURY AGREEMENT HAS CAUSED AN ESCALATION OF THE WAR WITH THE ADDED RISK OF FURTHER INTERNATIONALIZING THE CONFLICT. THIS CAN ONLY BE INTERPRETED AS EVIDENCE THAT THE SIGNATORIES TO THE SALISBURY AGREEMENT REPRESENT IN EFFECT ONLY ONE PARTY IN THE CONFLICT, A PARTY, MOREOVER, WHICH IS DEEPLY DIVIDED IN ITSELF. END QUOTE

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